

Media Release  
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## Planners in Push for New Urban Deal

Funding a backlog of more than \$500bn in infrastructure requirements for our cities is paramount to ensuring Australia meets emerging urban challenges and secures city liveability in the future.

The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) today joined other development, planning and built environment groups in *The Urban Coalition* to launch a plan calling for leadership and investment in infrastructure requirements that make cities work.

***A New Deal for Urban Australia*** recommends the establishment of an *Urban Infrastructure Fund* that would attract institutional and retail investors to free up national and international savings to direct funding towards urban infrastructure.

PIA Chief Executive Officer, Kirsty Kelly said providing proper infrastructure for our cities is a planning priority for Australia.

“Australia needs to better manage population growth and this means finding a way to fund infrastructure required on a number of levels,” Ms Kelly said.

“We believe there are two key initiatives that should be taken. Firstly the establishment of the *Urban Infrastructure Fund* and to support that, we are calling for a stronger role for Infrastructure Australia through the establishment of the Department for Cities and Urban Development.

“The fact that there are ten industry groups making the call for *A New Deal for Urban Australia* says a whole lot about how important we all believe this is.”

The Urban Coalition is made up of the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council, Australian Conservation Foundation, Association of Building Sustainability Assessors, Consult Australia, Green Building Council of Australia, Institute of Architects, National Growth Areas Alliance, Planning Institute of Australia, Property Council of Australia and the Urban Development Institute of Australia.

Ms Kelly said what *A New Deal for Urban Australia* has outlined today is an opportunity for investors to work in partnership with governments to benefit our national productivity and improve our standard of living.

“Many past decisions that have shaped our cities were in response to challenges of a different age. We now have to face emerging issues and population growth is one of them,” she said.

“We would like to see a stronger role for Infrastructure Australia and the establishment of a new Federal Government department which would incorporate the Major Cities Unit.

“It would work hand in hand with the sourcing of private sector dollars through the Urban Infrastructure Fund.

“In the past five years, Infrastructure Australia has provided independent advice to governments, investors and owners of infrastructure and there is now an opportunity to build on that success.

“If we strengthen the roles of Infrastructure Australia and the Major Cities Unit we can ensure taxpayers and investors get the best possible return on every dollar invested in infrastructure.

“The governance overseeing Infrastructure Australia should be refined to better align with National Urban Policy and improve coordination with state and territory governments.”

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